

Applic. No.: 10/023,152
Amdt. Dated May 26, 2006
Reply to Office action of March 9, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-14 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-11 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 9-10 have been objected to because of informalities. Appropriate correction has been made.

In item 3 on pages 2-5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 8, 11-12, and 14 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kohzuki et al. (US 6,912,225) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

In item 5 on pages 5-7 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 7 and 13 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kohzuki et al. in view of Caldara et al. (US 5,822,540) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In item 6 on pages 7-8 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 9-10 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kohzuki et al. in view of Raj et al. (US 6,628,649) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

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The rejections have been noted and claims 1, 8, and 11 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

More specifically, the feature of claim 2 has been added to claims 1, 8, and 11, respectively. Since claim 2 contains allowable subject matter as indicated in item 7 on page 8 of the Office action, claims 1, 8, and 11 are now believed to be allowable. Since the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 8, or 11, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's statement in item 7 on page 8 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 2-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The feature of claim 2 has been added to claim 1. Since claims 3-6 are dependent on allowable claim 1, they are believed to be allowable in dependent form.

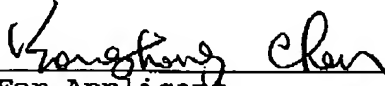
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-14 are solicited.

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In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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YC

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